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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enter this amendment: gmmw 12-27-05

In re patent application of:)
Hathaway) Before the Examiner
) Woo, Julian W.
Serial No. 10/008,781)
) Group Art Unit
) 3731
Filed November 13, 2001)
)
APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR)
POSITIVE CLOSURE OF AN)
INTERNAL TISSUE MEMBRANE)
OPENING)

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 27, 2005, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and consideration of the accompanying remarks.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this transmittal.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this transmittal.

Additionally, please provide any extensions of time that may be necessary and charge any fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but do not include any payment of issue fees that are or may become due.

I certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Gail Mercer
Typed or Printed Name of Person Transmitting Correspondence

Gail Mercer
Signature of Person Transmitting Correspondence

December 27, 2005

Date of Signature

Hathaway, USSN 10/008,781
RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION
7037-438.Q.280158v2

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12/28/2005 MBINAS 00000001 10008781

01 FC:1202
02 FC:1201

50.00 OP
280.00 OP
Atty. Docket 7037-438